



Strength comes from one united community

Happy Holidays!

It has been three weeks since I started here at KCDHH, and it is safe to say that I've hit the ground running. I want to thank the staff for their hard work and the commissioners for their unfailing support.

KCDHH will have an open house on Saturday, December 13, from 12-5 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet me face-to-face, mingle with the staff, tour the office building, and generally get into the holiday mood. I hope to see you there!

Written by
Liz Hill
KCDHH
Executive
Director

I want to use the open house as a starting point for what will be my ongoing message during my time as Executive Director. I believe that the deaf and hard of hearing community of Kentucky is one, united community. I believe that, at the end of the day, we must and do come together. The deaf community has a long and rich history of activism, cultural heritage and values, and a language that is cornerstone of all that it stands for. The hard of hearing community has its strength in numbers, and an appreciation for technological advances that level the playing field for the rest of us. Together, we make a formidable force.

Together, we will say to the world that no longer will our various communication

methods divide us. Instead, together, we will say to the world that the choices we make are ours alone to make and we are united in our right to choose.

This message of one, united community will frame how we approach the issues that are important to us. Already, we have some projects underway that will have a huge impact on the state of Kentucky. Ms. Virginia Moore, Deputy Executive Director, is working with the Kentucky Hospital Association to set best practices on how to provide accessible health care for the deaf and hard of hearing community. In addition, we were recently approached by the ADA Coordinator of court systems to set standards on accessibility for the courtrooms.

I had the pleasure of attending the Louisville Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner. I was so full from eating all that food

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Strength: Vlog latest innovation for KCDHH

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when I left! In these past couple of weeks, I have met with some community leaders to discuss ideas about deaf education in Kentucky. In addition, I attended the mental health advisory board meeting and saw a presentation about the current state of mental health services for deaf children. I met with Protection & Advocacy to discuss collaboration between our two agencies in an effort to strengthen the advocacy efforts on behalf of our community. I also was filmed in a video featuring how to use the visor card for when you are pulled over by police in a traffic stop, for instance. Please look for that video when it is released as everyone will benefit from that information. And most joyfully, I also was given a tour of the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) by two wonderful student leaders, Bethany Yancey and Jonathon Ramsen, at the Pancake Bazaar. Thank you, Bethany and Jonathan!

I am working with the KCDHH staff to plan a series of town hall meetings so that I have an opportunity to reach different parts of the state and get input from various

constituencies. We are working with partner organizations to make this happen. Please look for upcoming information on this and be sure to attend if there is one in your area.

Some of you may have seen in the news that Kentucky is facing a projected shortfall of \$450 million in revenue. These are lean economic times. We are still strong as ever and we still need the full backing and involvement of each and every one of you. In these challenging economic times, it is even more critical that we stand together as one community with one message.

Finally, thanks to our Network Analyst person, Jim Rivard, I am happy to announce that we already have two vlogs posted up on our Web site. Please check them out at www.kcdhh.ky.gov/vlog.

The vlog also has a feature that allows you to leave comments and I can personally respond to you as well. This is a wonderful tool for us to communicate and interact and I look forward to doing more vlogs in the future.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season!

DeaFestival performer featured on CNN

DeaFestival-Kentucky 2008 performer Sean Forbes was recently featured in a story on CNN about his musical venture the Deaf Performing Artists Network.



Forbes

Forbes, a 26-year-old native of Detroit, Michigan, received notoriety for the music videos his production company has created, with interpretation into American Sign Language. Some of the videos his company has made so far are John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change", Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" and Eminem's "Lose Yourself."

Forbes appeared during DeaFestival's "SpotLights" program at the Kentucky Center in August and showed two videos.

Forbes, deaf since infancy, has been an

avid music follower for most of his life, owning his love of music to his parents, who were both musicians.

He hopes to expand his company to include videos from new deaf artists.

"The world is run by those who show up, and I've shown up and I'm really ready to do this," Forbes told CNN. "They really want to get deaf music out there and deaf performing out there."

Commission Staff

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Anita Dowd, Information Program Coordinator
Derek Drury, Interpreter I
Rowena Holloway, Internal Policy Analyst III
Craig Lemak, Information Program Coordinator
Elden May, Information Office Supervisor
Virginia Moore, Deputy Executive Director
Rachel Morgan, Executive Staff Interpreter
Rachel Payne, Interpreter Relations Specialist
Jim Rivard, Network Analyst I
Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant
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KCDHH celebrates Deaf Awareness at UofL

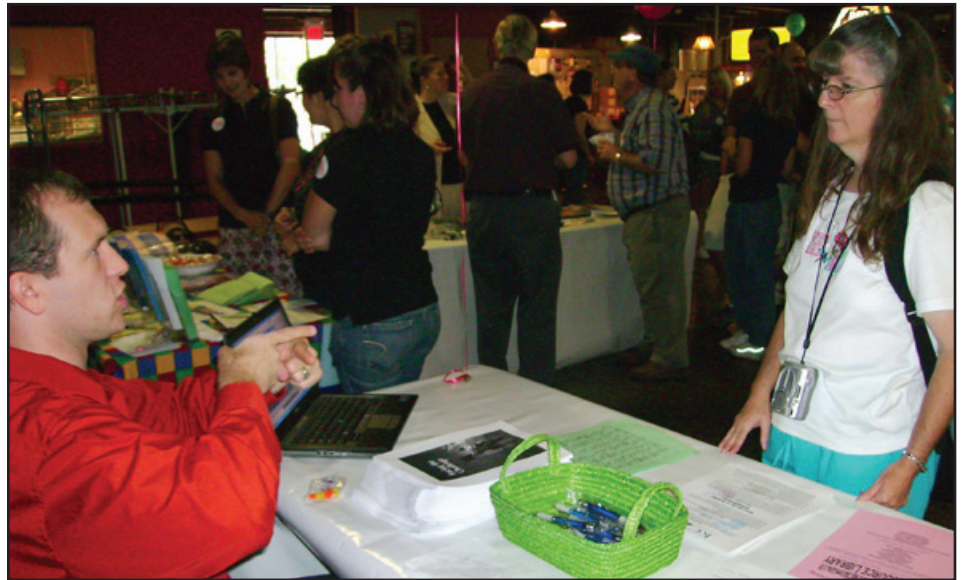
The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) celebrated Deaf Awareness Week by helping bring attention to Kentucky's interpreter shortage at an event hosted by the University of Louisville.

The first Deaf Awareness Day at the University of Louisville took place on Sept. 24 at the Red Barn on campus. The event was sponsored by students in the school's Interpreter Training Program (ITP).

The goal of the event was to spread awareness of a looming interpreter shortage that will affect Kentucky in the coming years and the importance of retaining the ITP program at the University of Louisville campus as a way to expand the number of licensed sign language interpreters to meet the growing demand.

Currently there are more than 646,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in Kentucky, with that number expected to double by the year 2030. In contrast, there are less than 350 fully licensed interpreters statewide to meet the needs of the population.

Several hundred students and staff



KCDHH Information Program Coordinator Craig Lemak answers a question for a University of Louisville Student during the school's first Deaf Awareness Day celebration on Sept. 24.

attended the event. Free lunch was provided by Mark's Feed Store but a condition was students were required to visit all the booths and ask questions before they received a full plate of barbecue.

KCDHH Information Program Coordinator Craig Lemak and Interpreter Referral Specialist Rachel Payne attended the event. The pair answered questions

ranging from assistive technology to general deafness topics, language and demographics.

Lemak and Payne also displayed and distributed deaf and hard of hearing related resources, including communications strategies, directories of services and where to locate sign language classes.

Hamilton Relay discontinues Video Relay Service

Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing consumers will soon have one less option for video relay service calls after Hamilton VRS recently announced it was discontinuing the service.

Hamilton is the official relay provider for 17 states (including Kentucky) and the District of Columbia, as well as Saipan and the Virgin Islands.

The company will continue to offer a wide array of options through Hamilton Relay, including Internet Relay, Captioned Telephone Service through landlines, over the Internet and mobile telephones. Hamilton will also continue to offer all forms of TRS to its customers.

An official statement released through the company's Web site states, "To our valued VRS customers:

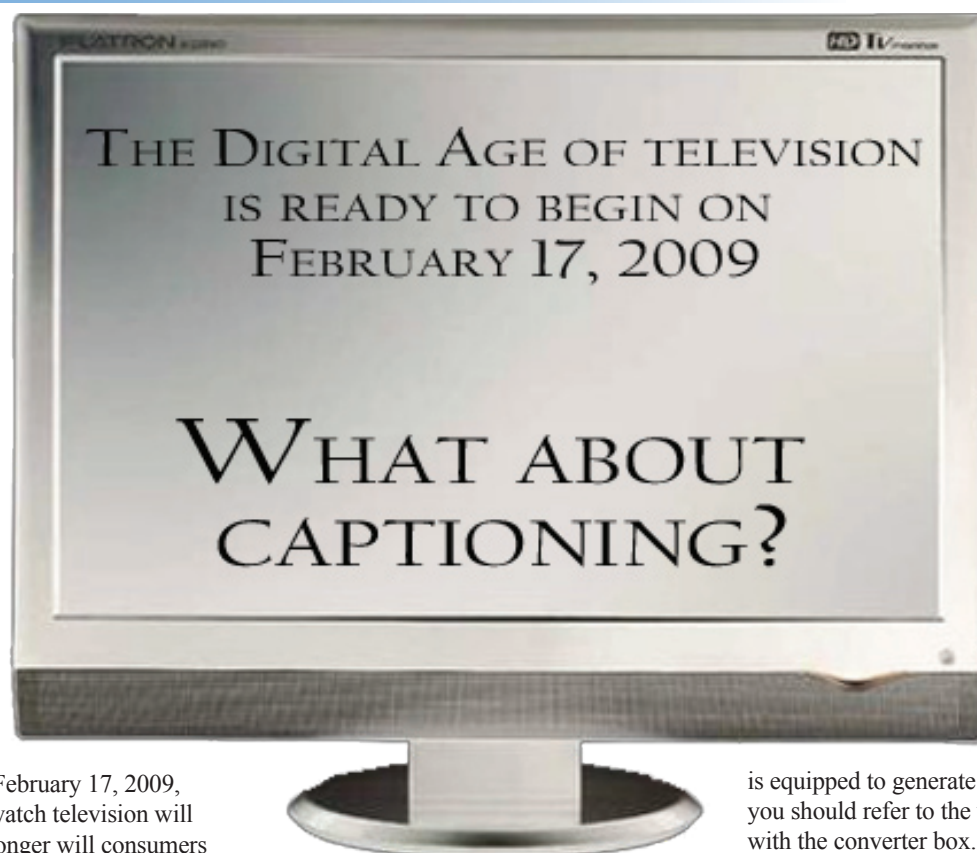
Throughout its 107-year history, Hamilton has been committed to providing the highest quality customer service possible. An important part of that commitment is an on-going evaluation of each of the products and services we offer to valuable customers like you.

After careful consideration, Hamilton has made the difficult decision to discontinue its VRS offering.

"We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause you. However, we would like very much to make our other state-of-the-art services available to you immediately. Please click here to discover everything that is available through Hamilton Relay, including all forms of TRS, Internet Relay, and Captioned Telephone Service via landline, over the Internet and now via mobile telephones.

On behalf of all of us at Hamilton, thank you for your continued interest and support. We look forward to meeting all your text relay needs."

For consumers, among the relay options listed through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) include CSDVRS, Hamilton Relay, Sorenson Communications, Hands on VRS and Sprint. A full list of relay providers is available at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/trs_providers.html.



Beginning on February 17, 2009, the way we watch television will change. No longer will consumers be able to receive analog signals through a “rabbit ear” antenna. To receive the digital signals without a new digital television or satellite or cable service, a converter box will be required.

The box will solve the issue of getting a picture but what about captioning? Nightmare stories about captioning failing to work correctly with the new digital technology are common. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently issued a ruling stating the guidelines broadcasters must follow with captions during the conversion from analog to digital, but will it be in time to save frustrated viewers in early 2009?

The following explanation from the FCC details the process of accessing captions through a converter box.

Closed Captioning and the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box

FCC rules require DTV equipment such as converter boxes to be capable of passing through closed captioning. The digital-to-analog converter box receives closed caption signals and passes those closed caption signals to your TV automatically.

In addition, many converter boxes will generate captions through the converter box itself, thus enabling you to change the way your captions look.

How to Control Closed Captions Through Your TV

Analog TVs that are 13 inches or larger, and were manufactured after July 1993, can display closed captions. When using any digital-to-analog converter box on one of these TVs, you can follow the instructions that came with your TV to turn closed captions on/off through your TV or TV remote control, just as you always have. If you were able to see closed captions on your TV before you got the converter box, you will continue to see closed captions on your TV the same way after attaching the box. As before, captions will appear as white text on a black background.

Analog TVs that are smaller than 13 inches and TVs manufactured before July 1993, are not required to display closed captions. If your converter box is equipped to generate closed captions itself, however, you may be able to see closed captions on these TVs by following the instructions below.

How to See Closed Captions Through Converter Boxes Equipped Themselves to Generate Closed Captions

In addition to passing through closed caption signals, many converter boxes also include the ability to take over the captioning role that the tuner plays in your analog TV set. To determine whether your converter box

is equipped to generate captions in this way, you should refer to the user manual that came with the converter box. If your converter box is equipped to generate captions in this way, then follow the instructions that came with the converter box to turn closed captions on/off via your converter box or converter box remote control. When you access the closed captions in this way, you also will be able to change the way your digital captions look. The converter box will come with instructions on how to change the caption size, font (style), caption color, background color, and opacity. This ability to adjust your captions is something you cannot do now with an analog television and analog captions.

What To Do if You Have Problems with Getting Captions

If you turn on the digital-to-analog converter box and see a double row of overlapping captions, it may mean you are seeing captions through both your TV and your digital-to-analog converter box. You should turn off the closed captioning function either on your television or on the converter box.

If you are able to get captions when you tune to one station, but not another, most likely this is not a problem with your converter box. You should contact the television station airing the program that does not have captions.

If you are using a digital-to-analog converter box with an analog TV set and cannot see any captions, you should contact the manufacturer of the converter box.

Problems outweigh solutions for digital captioning issues

❖ By Dana Mulvany ❖

The following scenario has played out countless times in living rooms in recent months – someone sits down to watch the local news with the captions on with their new HDTV. The captions start off slow, then fall further behind, then finally disappear.

The causes for such a breakdown could be many. However, before blaming your new TV, the caption problem could originate at the local station, where the local captioning begins.

While stations have been quick to embrace the new digital broadcasting technology, it has caused problems with the existing equipment used to convert analog captions to digital. The result is a delay in locally-aired shows, such as the news and syndicated programs. The problem is not universal; it varies from market to market and often from station to station.

The problem is not limited to just an HDTV. Captions have also been an issue with analog-to-digital converter boxes and conventional TVs. In each instance captions can be slow or non-existent.

So far there is no pinpointed reason for the captioning problems though two popular theories have surfaced. The cause

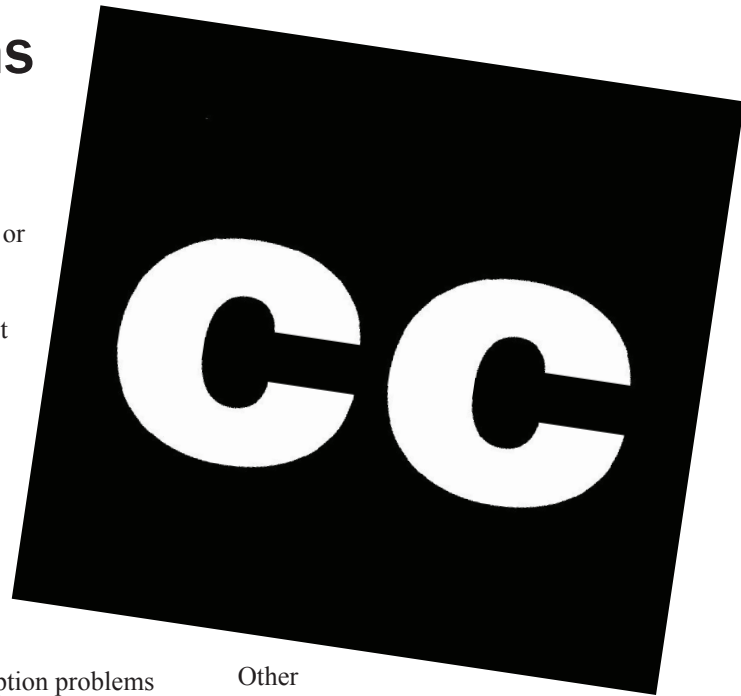
for the delay could come from the equipment itself or it could be the interaction between that equipment and the station's broadcast signal.

Since one size does not fit all when addressing captioning problems the best advice is to contact your local station directly and let them know what you are experiencing.

Try to identify patterns, such as do you see the caption problems only with locally-broadcast reruns, with nationally-broadcast programs, or local news? Are some syndicated programs, which had only analog captions, having different problems than syndicated programs that could have been generated with both analog and digital captions? Do first-run programs have captioning problems or do they occasionally have glitches? Describe the captioning problems in detail, including the time when you see captions disappear. The more detailed you are about the patterns you see, the more you can help the station engineers isolate what might be causing the problems.

Other factors to consider when contacting the station about captioning problems are knowing what equipment you're using, what kind of antenna you're using, if any, and where the captions are coming from.

If you are experiencing problems with the cable company, make it a point to contact them directly and explain your situation. If you do not receive assistance, check into the possibility of satellite television providers such as DirecTV. Another solution could be the suggestion to pay less for your service since the full benefit is lost through poor captioning.



FCC ruling outlines procedures for analog, digital captions

On Nov. 7, 2008, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a ruling, order and notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the issue of captioning and its impact on digital television. Among the results of the ruling are:

New Network Exemption – The FCC rules exempt all new networks from existing FCC closed captioning requirements for the first four years. However, this does not apply to networks that make the switch from an analog signal to digital.

Digital Captioning – The FCC rules apply the same to networks that use the old analog technology and convert to new digital technology. The rules apply as if the change

never happened. Networks that also transmit a signal in both formats must offer captions in both formats.

Analog Captioning – Currently there are two types of captions – CEA 608, the current analog captioning featuring white words within a black box, and CEA-708, the new digital captions that allow viewers to change items such as font, color and size. Since many televisions will continue to work after February 17, 2009 using a set-top converter box, broadcasters will be required to continue transmitting analog captions. Broadcasters will also be required to transmit digital captions (CEA-708) for televisions that rely on new digital technology.

Make sure equipment transmits captions – The FCC stipulates that all companies that distribute multi-channel video programming (satellite and cable companies) must ensure that the equipment they give to consumers receives all available captioning information for their television, both analog and digital.

Complaint procedures – The rules for filing a captioning complaint have changed to allow for a more efficient resolution to the issue. Before, a written complaint had to be filed with the video programming distributor. Now, a complaint may be filed directly with the FCC.

KCDHH enjoys busy fall delivering the message

Following a successful summer that concluded with the State Fair and DeaFestival-Kentucky on Labor Day Weekend, KCDHH staff took the message to the people in the autumn months.

More than 5,000 people were introduced to KCDHH through outreach activities by the agency during the months of September, October and November.

Addition to reaching out to consumers in population centers in areas such as Louisville, Lexington and northern Kentucky, the agency has also expanded its efforts to reach areas of the commonwealth where services are desperately needed but knowledge of KCDHH may not be widespread.

Nowhere was the philosophy of KCDHH more evident than on Monday, September 29, when Information Program Coordinator Craig Lemak and Interpreter I Derek Drury attended the



KCDHH Information Office Supervisor Elden May looks on as a pair of seniors take agency information during the Northern Kentucky Senior Expo.

AARP Health Festival in Williamsburg. The event, celebrating the 50th year for the AARP chapter in southeastern Kentucky, allowed the agency to reach out and educate more than 250 consumers to the services provided by KCDHH. Meanwhile, in Somerset, Information Program Coordinator Anita Dowd attended the first meeting of Show of Hands, a support program for families with deaf and hard of hearing children. The day-long event

took place at the Somerset Public Library.

For the second consecutive year the agency participated in the Northern Kentucky Senior Expo at Newport on the Levee. Information Office Supervisor Elden May answered questions, distributed agency information and promotional items at the event, which was attended by an estimated 2,500 people and 88 organizations.

The Access Center and Interpreter Referral Specialist Rachel Payne were able to spread the message of interpreting to state agencies through the Transportation Cabinet Health Fair on October 17. The event for state employees gave KCDHH exposure to more than 350 people representing many agencies.

Though several public events have already been scheduled for the early months of 2009, KCDHH is always ready to meet a new audience and spread the message of the agency.

Reach Out We will be there

If your group would like to learn more about KCDHH and the services we offer, we would love to meet you.

For more information about group presentations please contact us at

(800) 372-2907 or via email at

kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov

Yes You *Can!*



KCDHH introduces the Public Access Videophone from CSD. Coming soon to every major airport in Kentucky.

Stop by KCDHH for a free demo today!

VP: 502-573-2603

VP IP: 162.114.52.90

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

December 11th -	Gallaudet and Clerc Banquet - Danville, KY
December 13th -	KCDHH Open House - Frankfort, KY
December 14th -	Captioned and ASL interpreted performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" - Covington, KY
December 16th -	Sign interpreted performance of "A Christmas Carol" presented by the Actors Theatre of Louisville - Louisville, KY
December 18th -	Louisville Deaf Senior Citizens Christmas Party - Louisville, KY
December 21st -	Captioned and ASL interpreted performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" - Covington, KY
December 27th -	Southeastern Kentucky Deaf Community New Year's Eve party and social - American Legion, London, KY
December 28th -	Captioned and ASL interpreted performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" - Covington, KY

JANUARY

January 22nd-24th -	Mason-Dixon Boys Basketball Tournament at the Kentucky School for the Deaf - Danville, KY
January 23rd -	120th KCDHH Commission Meeting - Transportation Cabinet, Frankfort, KY

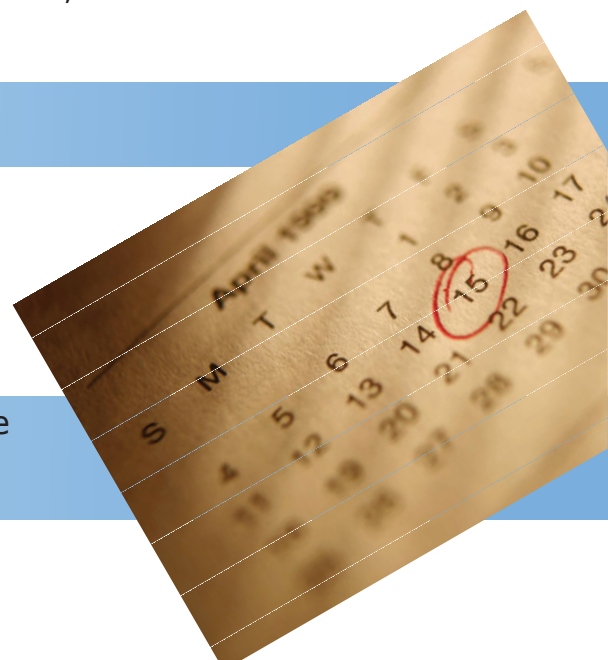
FEBRUARY

February 11th-14th -	Kentucky Convention on Hearing Disorders presented by the Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA) - Louisville, KY
February 21st -	DeafNation Expo - Greensboro, NC

MARCH

March 9th-10th -	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) annual conference - Addison, TX
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For more information on these and other events, please visit the KCDHH Web Bulletin Board at <http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/home/bulletin.html>





KCDHH

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

An agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN 2009.

- THE KCDHH FAMILY